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Paper No. 17

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MAIL

DEC 10 2003

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| In re Application of | : | DIRECTOR OFFICE |
| Derek Mahoney, et al. | : | TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600 |
| Application No. 09/524,040 | : | DECISION ON PETITION |
| Filed: March 13, 2000 | : | TO MAKE SPECIAL |
| For: ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL UNI-EAR HEARING | : | |
| INSTRUMENT | : | |

This is a decision on the petition to make special filed November 3, 2003 under MPEP §708.02 (IV), applicant's age.

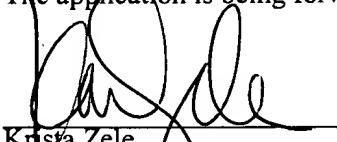
A petition to make special under MPEP §708.02, IV, must show that petitioner is 65 years of age, or more. Acceptable evidence includes a birth certificate, copy of a driver's license, or simply a statement by the applicant. No fee is required.

The petition includes a copy of a statement from inventor Marvin Leedham averring that he is over 65 years of age.

Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire prosecution, including any appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.


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